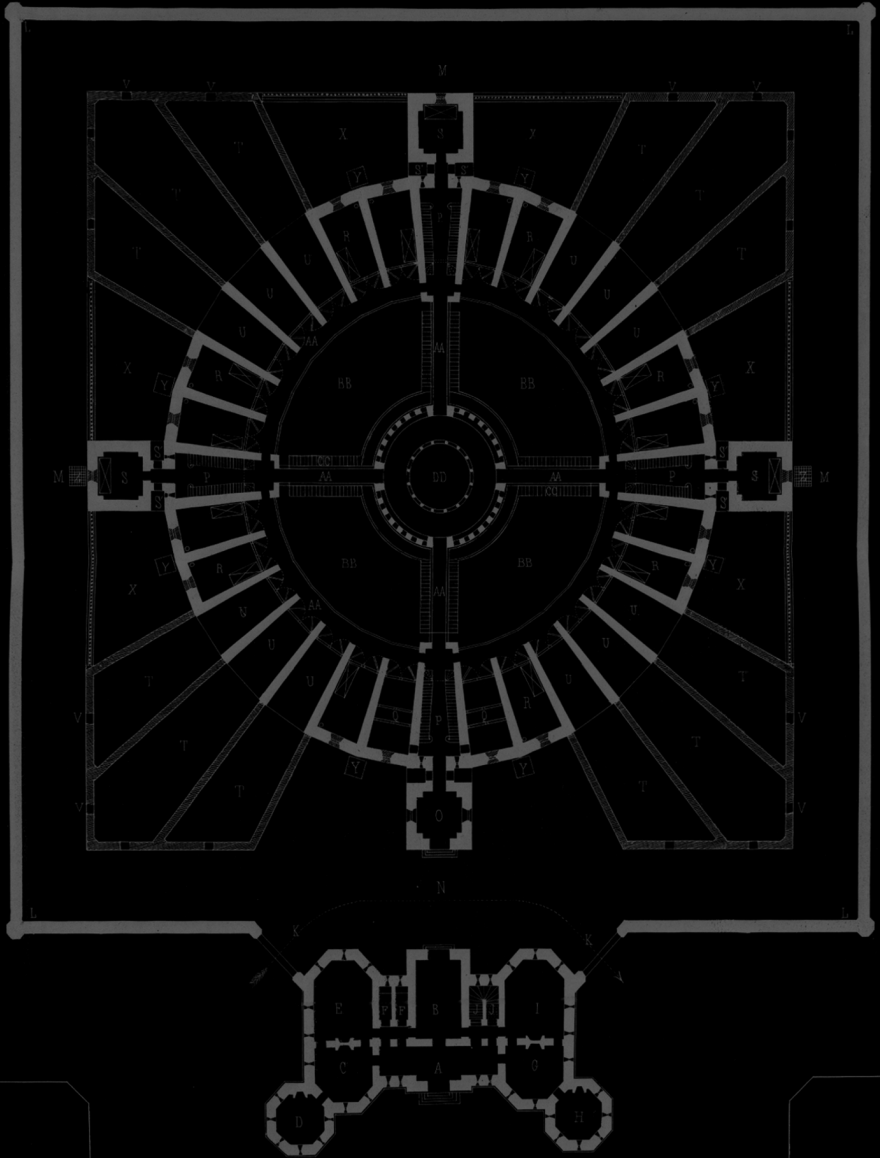PRISON DEPARTEMENTALE
Projet comprenant 78 cellules.

Echelle de

Transcript Not Available

Acoustic Mirror

March 15, 2020

I Transcript Not Available

For a few months back in 2016, I allowed a major ISP to spy on me. I had found out that they were recording and storing all sounds picked up by a mobile device when using voice search, presumably to train their neural networks and improve the AI's capacity to identify search terms.

Now, I have never used the voice search facility of my mobile device, but I did often tap the microphone icon by mistake. And, as a recordist and sound practitioner, the very idea of a corporation registering sounds in my environment fascinated me. Obviously, paranoia and privacy concerns played a role too, and, truth be told, the ISP in question was pretty transparent about it: not only was it an opt-in feature, but you had access to all your data, including sound files, stored by the company. It still somehow made me think of a strange aural Panopticon, a Stasi-like context in which every individual, everywhere, was a potential spy, (themselves, in turn, spied upon), every phrase and sound uttered in public liable to be recorded. If the ISP were doing all this in the open, what else could they do with our mobile devices and data without our knowledge?

But these thoughts were not enough to deter my curiosity. I now had a separate, independent listening agent roaming around with me, occasionally picking up sounds, and laying down a separate, independent register of activities and goings-on around me. A private detective to follow me around and listen in on my environment, for free.

As the exercise progressed, and a list of recordings started appearing on my "activity" tab, things started looking (and sounding) stranger and stranger. The recordings picked up by the meagre microphone of my smartphone were very low quality, short bursts of sound. Even bearing in mind where I'd been and what I'd done on a given day, it was difficult to recognise the places, soundscapes, sometimes even voices heard in these registers. Locations I knew I'd been to were nowhere to be found, people I remember talking with were absent. On the contrary, people I couldn't for my life recall seeing and talking to for the duration of the exercise would suddenly appear in the recordings. It was almost

as if a database glitch was presenting me with someone else's sound environments: a different "me", and a set of unknown locations and soundscapes.

In parallel, I was looking into the kind of data that the ISP was associating with these sounds. It was obvious that this retaining of audio data was an attempt to improve their voice search technology, and it became clear that they were trying to recognise and identify specific words and phrases picked up by the microphone. "They" might be a misnomer: the whole process seemed automated. We could venture out and call this "machine listening", or "data listening" (data-mining as listening). And this eavesdropping/overhearing was a completely different process from what I know of as listening practice. It appeared to focus on different sounds, different frequencies, and return a completely *other* soundscape.

Voice recognition was obviously not working. The whole system was designed to identify specific terms (mostly, brands and other product and service names) in English. But on an everyday basis, I speak mostly in Spanish, with some English and, occasionally, some Bulgarian thrown in. The AI's guesses as to what I had said at a given time were often hilariously off the mark. Combined with my mis-recognition of the recorded places and sounds when listening to the archive, this only added to the general feeling of otherness.

The whole process lasted between the end of September 2016 and the first days of January 2017. I can't recall the reasons why I finally decided to interrupt it and opt out of the ISP eavesdropping programme. I remember simply getting tired and fed up with it.

I was left with a strange set of sounds (can we call it a dataset?), and an audio diary which could only bring on a sense of the uncanny. As if both the AI and myself had been sleepwalking through most of my days.

Acoustic Mirror, March 2020

II Diary

Sep 22, 2016 at 11:03 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-09-22_23-03.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:01.33 = 58741 samples = 99.8997 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 118k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Sep 23, 2016 at 11:54 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-09-23_11-54.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:09.86 = 435002 samples = 739.799 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 870k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Oct 16, 2016 at 5:02 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-10-16_17-02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:05.80 = 255604 samples = 434.701 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 511k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Oct 20, 2016 at 1:52 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-10-20_01-52.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:02.59 = 114307 samples = 194.4 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 229k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 8, 2016 at 11:40 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-08_23-40.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:03.53 = 155585 samples = 264.6 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 311k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 9, 2016 at 6:53 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-09_18-53_01.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:00.90 = 39690 samples = 67.5 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 79.4k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 9, 2016 at 6:53 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-09_18-53_02.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:04.36 = 192100 samples = 326.701 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 384k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 9, 2016 at 6:53 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-09_18-53_03.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:06.08 = 268304 samples = 456.299 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 537k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 13, 2016 at 12:56 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-13_12-56.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:04.54 = 200038 samples = 340.201 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 400k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 16, 2016 at 3:35 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-16_15-35.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:07.09 = 312757 samples = 531.9 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 626k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 17, 2016 at 3:01 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-17_20-15_01.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:02.05 = 90493 samples = 153.9 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 181k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 17, 2016 at 3:02 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-17_20-15_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:07.01 = 308978 samples = 525.473 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 618k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 18, 2016 at 10:26 AM. Voice and Audio. Said "Scooby Doo Game".

```
Input File     : '2016-11-19_10-26_scooby-doo_game.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:03.31 = 146059 samples = 248.4 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 292k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 23, 2016 at 11:52 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-23_23-52.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:02.88 = 127008 samples = 216 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 254k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 24, 2016 at 11:55 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-24_23-55_01.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:02.77 = 122245 samples = 207.9 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 245k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 24, 2016 at 11:56 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-24_23-55_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:07.18 = 316460 samples = 538.197 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 633k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 25, 2016 at 11:35 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-25_23-35.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:03.02 = 133358 samples = 226.799 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 267k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 26, 2016 at 7:24 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not Available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-26_19-24_01.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:00.72 = 31752 samples = 54 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 63.5k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 26, 2016 at 7:25 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not Available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-26_19-24_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:05.08 = 223852 samples = 380.701 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 448k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 26, 2016 at 7:26 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-26_19-24_03.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:00.50 = 22226 samples = 37.7993 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 44.5k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 29, 2016 at 11:22 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-29_23-22_01.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:01.62 = 71442 samples = 121.5 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 143k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 29, 2016 at 11:23 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-29_23-22_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:04.82 = 212738 samples = 361.799 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 426k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 29, 2016 at 11:24 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-29_23-22_03.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:00.36 = 15876 samples = 27 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 31.8k
Bit Rate       : 707k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 29, 2016 at 11:25 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-29_23-22_04.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:04.64 = 204800 samples = 348.299 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 410k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 30, 2016 at 12:08 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-30_12-08_01.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:00.14 = 6350 samples = 10.7993 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 12.7k
Bit Rate       : 708k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 30, 2016 at 12:09 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not Available

```
Input File      : '2016-11-30_12-08_02.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:00.58 = 25402 samples = 43.2007 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 50.8k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Nov 30, 2016 at 12:10 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-11-30_12-08_03.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:00.90 = 39690 samples = 67.5 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 79.4k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 11, 2016 at 11:20 AM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-12-11_20-39.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:00.72 = 31752 samples = 54 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 63.5k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 13, 2016 at 7:04 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-12-13_19-04.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:13.50 = 595344 samples = 1012.49 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 1.19M
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 13, 2016 at 10:29 PM. Voice and Audio. Said "Metra Tickets"

```
Input File     : '2016-12-13_22-29_01.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:09.73 = 429288 samples = 730.082 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 859k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 13, 2016 at 10:30 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-12-13_22-29_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:22.00 = 970024 samples = 1649.7 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 1.94M
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 13, 2016 at 10:31 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-12-13_22-29_03.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:16.94 = 747223 samples = 1270.79 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 1.49M
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 13, 2016 at 10:32 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-12-13_22-29_04.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:02.77 = 121977 samples = 207.444 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 244k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 17, 2016 at 3:26 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-12-17_15-26_01.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:22.10 = 974786 samples = 1657.8 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 1.95M
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 17, 2016 at 3:27 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2016-12-17_15-26_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:01.76 = 77792 samples = 132.299 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 156k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Dec 20, 2016 at 4:13 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2016-12-20_16-13.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:03.96 = 174636 samples = 297 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 349k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Jan 1, 2017 at 3:11 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File      : '2017-01-01_03-11_01.wav'
Channels        : 1
Sample Rate     : 44100
Precision       : 16-bit
Duration        : 00:00:06.84 = 301644 samples = 513 CDDA sectors
File Size       : 603k
Bit Rate        : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Jan 1, 2017 at 3:12 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2017-01-01_03-11_02.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:14.15 = 623927 samples = 1061.1 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 1.25M
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Jan 2, 2017 at 2:17 PM. Voice and Audio. Transcript not available

```
Input File     : '2017-01-02_14-17.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:06.66 = 293896 samples = 499.823 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 588k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```

Jan 15, 2017 at 3:20 PM: Voice and Audio. Said "Cosmo".

```
Input File     : '2017-01-15_20_24_cosmo.wav'
Channels       : 1
Sample Rate    : 44100
Precision      : 16-bit
Duration       : 00:00:04.72 = 207976 samples = 353.701 CDDA sectors
File Size      : 416k
Bit Rate       : 706k
Sample Encoding: 16-bit Signed Integer PCM
```